

September 10, 2007

Initial Proposal

Jocko Lakes Fire Salvage Timber Sales

The Jocko Lakes fire has burned over 36,000 acres of private, State, and National Forest lands. Over 2,000 acres of these lands are State of Montana forested school trust lands. This area includes:

- Sections 6 and part of Section 8 in Township 16 North, Range 15 West
- Section 16 and part of Section 36 in Township 16 North, Range 16 West
- Section 36 in Township 17 North, Range 17 West

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Clearwater Unit, is planning salvage timber harvest and restoration work on State-owned lands within the fire area. Salvage timber harvest is being considered on Sections 6 and 8 in T16N R15W, and Sections 16 and 36 in T16N R16W. Other work would include erosion control, rehabilitation of streams and roads, grass seeding, and reforestation.

The primary objectives of the project are to:

1. Mitigate adverse impacts and restore the forest to its income-generating potential; and
2. Capture value of dead and dying trees and prevent future value loss.

Timber sold would generate revenue for the Common Schools and M.S.U. 2nd Grant Trusts. Estimated harvest volume would be eight to eleven million board feet, and could be sold as several sales or permits. Up to approximately six miles of new road would be built to access these stands, and additional roadwork may be required to meet Montana Best Management Practices. The proposed action could be implemented as early as the fall of 2007. In developing this project, DNRC will work with specialists in forest management, hydrology, soil science, wildlife biology and archaeology.

Montana DNRC is in the initial stages of planning, and we are inviting public comments and suggestions about this proposal. **Please send comments by September 26, 2007.** Please direct responses to:

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